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...For expenses on account of shortage  
of elk feed on the winter elk refuge at  
Jackson Hole, Wyo. 1930.

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66TH CONGRESS, } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { DOCUMENT  
2d Session. } No. 672.

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GENERAL EXPENSES BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,  
1920.

## LETTER

FROM

# THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, SUBMITTING A SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION REQUIRED BY THE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY TO REIMBURSE THE APPROPRIATION "GENERAL EXPENSES BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1920," FOR EXPENSES ON ACCOUNT OF SHORTAGE OF ELK FEED ON THE WINTER ELK REFUGE AT JACKSON HOLE, WYO.

MARCH 5, 1920.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, March 2, 1920.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress copy of a communication from the Secretary of Agriculture of the 20th ultimo, submitting a supplemental estimate of appropriation, in the sum of \$36,271.50, required by the Bureau of Biological Survey to reimburse the appropriation, "General expenses, Bureau of Biological Survey, 1920," for expenses on account of shortage of elk feed on the winter elk refuge at Jackson Hole, Wyo.

The necessity for the appropriation and the reasons for the submission of the estimate at this time are fully set forth in the letter of the Secretary of Agriculture herewith.

Respectfully,

D. F. HOUSTON, *Secretary.*

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
*Washington, D. C., February 20, 1920.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following estimate with the request that it be transmitted to Congress for inclusion in the next general deficiency appropriation bill:

For an additional amount required to meet the emergency caused by the shortage of elk feed on the winter elk refuge at Jackson Hole, Wyo., to reimburse the appropriation "General expenses, Bureau of Biological Survey, 1920, including each and every object specified therein, \$36,271.50."

During the past season a severe drought prevented the growth of forage on the range of Montana and Wyoming including the district in and about the winter elk refuge at Jackson Hole, Wyo. With this lack of forage on the range went also a great decrease in the hay crop, so that the amount of hay available for feeding elk in Jackson Hole at the beginning of the present season was entirely inadequate to carry the elk through a hard winter. Unfortunately the winter in the Jackson Hole region began with almost unprecedented severity in October, about two months in advance of the usual period, and severe storms and low temperatures prevailed until the latter part of December.

The natural grazing was almost exhausted by this time and the elk were rapidly being forced into valleys in search of forage. It was, therefore, apparent that unless some steps were immediately taken to meet this situation the elk herd which has annually summered in and about the southern border of the Yellowstone National Park and ranged during the winter in the vicinity of the elk refuge at Jackson Hole, Wyo., numbering from fifteen to eighteen thousand animals, was threatened with starvation.

It was imperative, therefore, in the judgment of the department to secure additional hay to prevent the possible death by starvation of thousands of elk about the Government winter feeding ground in charge of the Department of Agriculture in Jackson Hole.

That the money was expended advantageously and in the best interests of the Government and the people of the United States becomes obvious when it is considered that each elk possesses a food value of approximately \$50, entirely aside from its value as an attraction to summer tourists. It thus becomes apparent that a loss of even 1,000 of these animals would greatly exceed in actual food value the amount expended to assure their preservation, and there can be no question but that from 8,000 to 10,000 were in imminent danger of perishing by starvation during the present winter.

The scarcity of hay and the demand for every available pound for stock feed, together with the extremely severe storms of the early part of December, materially advanced the price of hay in the vicinity of Jackson Hole. Many of the owners refused to sell their hay at any price, and it was therefore necessary to purchase hay from the nearest available source, which, although in Jackson Valley, included a haul of considerable length. The work was performed, however, in the most economical manner possible, considering the season of the year and the length of the haul.

The funds which have been expended in this case are funds which are urgently needed for carrying on the other work of the Bureau of Biological Survey, and particularly in the enforcement of the provisions of the migratory-bird treaty act and in the study of the food

habits of North American birds and mammals, the destruction of noxious animals on national forests and public domain, and in the suppression of rabies among predatory wild animals. It is therefore apparent that the deficiency appropriation requested is urgently needed at the earliest possible date in order that the work of this bureau should not be unnecessarily handicapped.

Respectfully,

E. T. MEREDITH, *Secretary*.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

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*Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, by the Department of Agriculture.*

*General expenses, Bureau of Biological Survey—*

For an additional amount required to meet the emergency caused by the shortage of elk feed on the winter elk refuge at Jackson Hole, Wyo., to reimburse the appropriation "General expenses, Bureau of Biological Survey, 1920," including each and every object specified therein (act July 24, 1919, vol. 41, p. 257, sec. 1).....	\$36,271.50
Amount appropriated for the fiscal year for which the appropriation is required.....	686,200.00









